

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **December 24, 2002**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Ozawa et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,870,710).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa et al.

Claims 4, 7, 9, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa et al. in view of Flannery (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,796).

Claims 6, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa et al. in view of Flannery as applied to claims 4, 7 and 14 above, and further in view of Gilbert (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,011).

Ozawa et al. discloses an audio recording and reproducing apparatus which is comprised of a digital portable headphone stereo 1 with a built-in rechargeable battery 53 and a base station 2 for charging the battery 53. It is considered that the base station 2 having a cavity 3 in Ozawa et al. corresponds to an expansion device, and the digital portable headphone stereo 1 in Ozawa et al. corresponds to a readout device. Accordingly, it is not believed that the expansion device 2 in Ozawa et al. corresponds to the expansion device 1 of the present invention.

Fig. 7 of Ozawa et al. clearly shows that the base station (expansion device) 2 only has a DSU 61 and a power supply circuit 62. In contradistinction, the expansion device 1 according to the present invention is equipped with an audio circuit 21, 22 and the second power input portion (external power supply inlet) 15. The following is the comparison table of the constituent features of claim 1 of the present invention and Ozawa et al.

	Claim 1	Ozawa
host device	a personal computer 30	a network service center 21
expansion device	a bay unit 1 having • a bay 2 • a 1st power input portion 9 • a 2nd power input portion 15 • audio circuits 21, 22	a base station 2 having • a cavity • a power supply terminal 5
readout device	CD-ROM drive 40 having a disk 41	a digital portable headphone stereo 1 having a hard disk drive 45 and a battery 53

Further, although the expansion device according to the present invention is supplied with power from the notebook PC 30 through the connector 9, the expansion device in Ozawa et al. is supplied with DC power from the AC adaptor inserted in an outlet on the wall of the house. In other words, the service network center 21 which corresponds to the computer of the present invention does not supply an electric power to the expansion device in Ozawa et al.

Furthermore, the readout device according to the present invention executes a data transmission with the computer through the expansion device. Contrary to this, an apparatus disclosed in Ozawa et al. executes a data transmission through the expansion device or a modem

directly connected to the readout device. This means the structure of the expansion device of Ozawa et al. is quite different from that of the expansion device according to the present invention. As a result, it is believed that the structure of the expansion device according to the present invention cannot be foreseen from Ozawa et al.

In the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite such further features of

1. (Amended) An expansion device [having a main body provided with a mounting portion, in which a readout device is mountable and enabled to read information processing data from a storage medium storing the information processing data and to read sound reproducing data from a storage medium storing at least the sound reproducing data, said expansion device being connected to a host device and used for transmission of data between said host device and said data readout device, said expansion device] used for transmission of data between a computer and a data readout device, comprising:

a main body connected to said computer;

a mounting portion provided on said main body in which said readout device is mountable and said readout device being able to read information processing data from a storage medium storing the information processing data and to read sound reproducing data from a storage unit storing at least the sound reproducing data;

Furthermore, "host device" of claim 1 has been amended to be "computer". As it is apparent from reviewing Figures 1-9F of Ozawa et al. that the disclosed audio transmission, recording and reproducing system really does not disclose a computer. In contradistinction, a computer is readily shown in Figure 1 of the present invention. Therefore, the claimed invention, as newly amended, is patentably distinguished over Ozawa. All claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, are also patentably distinguished over Ozawa further in view of any other secondary references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An expansion device [having a main body provided with a mounting portion, in which a readout device is mountable and enabled to read information processing data from a storage medium storing the information processing data and to read sound reproducing data from a storage medium storing at least the sound reproducing data, said expansion device being connected to a host device and used for transmission of data between said host device and said data readout device, said expansion device] used for transmission of data between a computer and a data readout device, comprising:

a main body connected to said computer;

a mounting portion provided on said main body in which said readout device is mountable and said readout device being able to read information processing data from a storage medium storing the information processing data and to read sound reproducing data from a storage unit storing at least the sound reproducing data;

audio circuits for processing the sound reproducing data;

a first power input portion [for] being supplied with source power for said expansion device from a power supply for said [host device] computer; and

a second power input portion [for] being supplied with source power for said expansion device from a second power supply other than said power supply for said [host device] computer,

wherein operations of said audio circuits and said readout device are enabled by supplying

source power thereto from said second power input portion when no source power is supplied to said first power input portion.